

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.**

Virtual Meeting

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo	P	4	1
Brucie Cummings	P	4	1
Caleb Gunter	P	4	1
Carey Villeneuve	P	5	0
Charlie Leikauf	P	5	0
Darren Heitner	P	4	1
Deborah Rosenbaum	P	5	0
Gale Butler	P	4	1
Greg Martin	P	4	0
Jo Ann Smith	P	3	2
Marianna Seiler	P	5	0
Mary Peloquin	P	5	0
Robert Payne	P	3	2
Steffi Paskow	P	3	0
Tangerean Moore	P	5	0

Oct 2020 - Sept 2021

As of this date, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Carl Williams, *Recreation Deputy Director*
Leona Osamor, *Grants Administrator*
Enrique Sanchez, *Parks Deputy Director*
Stephanie McClary, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

Roll Call

Chairperson Caleb Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll was called, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Deborah Rosenbaum and seconded by Charlie Leikauf, that the minutes of March 24, 2021 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Department Update

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that the Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of developing the dog area at Riverside on SW 20th Avenue between 2nd and 4th street. Mr. Williams stated that there would be a small

and large dog park with benches and some irrigation at the location.

Mr. Williams informed the board that the City of Fort Lauderdale's Parks and Recreation Department has been a nationally accredited capra certified organization and is seeking recertification for the next upcoming year, a process which occurs every five years.

Mr. Williams informed the board that on May 19, 2021 at 6:00 pm, the Budget Advisory Board would be hosting its joint meeting with the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board. Mr. Williams stated that the board is invited to attend although there are no speaking components to it but would provide line item information that the department has upcoming into the new fiscal year. Mr. Williams stated that the meeting discusses the decision packages and a couple decision packages that are put in for this year include providing access to playgrounds that are adjacent and connected to schools. Mr. Williams further stated that for the department to provide access he is looking to hire a security company to open and close the gates at night. This has also been discussed last year but since the park rangers were with the police department at the time, they did not proceed last year but with increase in activity, the request will be made to get it funded.

The board was informed by Mr. Williams that the Parks and Recreation Department oversees the cemetery operations and will be also requesting an Administrative Supervisor. Mr. Williams stated that currently, the department only has one cemetery administrator and the department have cemetery administrative management. Mr. Williams also stated the department oversees four cemeteries namely Woodlawn, Evergreen, Lauderdale Memorial, and Sunset. Mr. Williams stated that additional supervision and assistance is needed and has requested a Supervisor.

Mr. Williams mentioned that over the last several years he has had concerns with all the restrooms and over the last several months a decision was made to identify ways to provide a high level of service and the need for additional cleaning. The department does have a vendor; however, at this point, the goal is to provide a higher level of service that is needed and is requesting an expansion upon the clean team initiative that was put in place several years back to expand the level of service.

Mr. Williams stated that the Las Olas Marina privatization and Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex has been identified through the budget process. The Las Olas Marina will be run by a company and the purpose is to justify the reduction in the Marine facilities due to the transition of ownership. Mr. Williams stated that the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex will open in 2022; however, there are operational cost leading up to this time. Mr. Williams stated that we will need to meet the financial demands of the facility and on May 19th at 6:00pm there will be a meeting to discuss these packages further.

Mr. Williams informed the board that the Great American Beach party will take place this year along with a memorial Ceremony at Lauderdale Memorial Cemetery, Fourth of July, and in between the summer the event series plan to have Starlight Musicals and Summer Jams. Mr. Williams stated if Broward County can get below 5% infection rate, they can plan to have the events.

Mr. Williams informed the board that Chief Education Officer Zoie Saunders has opened communication with the school board to receive reciprocity with the city. Mr. Williams believe they will be additional opportunities for feedback on the list of schools that are listed first for improvements in open space for the community between the school in the neighborhoods.

Board member Brucie Cummings stated her concerns of trash on the beach. Mr. Williams informed the board that they have a contractor that services the loop Las Olas Oceanside Park area, Glassman is the contracted vendor and her responsibility is to take care of maintenance and cleans the restrooms. Mr. Williams stated that they have staff that clean the beach's entire beach area and will advise staff if there is extra cleaning that must be done.

Deputy Director Mr. Enrique Sanchez informed the board that they can reach out to the LauderServ customer service number. Mr. Sanchez further stated that the cans on A1A East and West side is collected twice a day while the trash cans on the sand is collected throughout the day. Mr. Sanchez stated the crew works early morning or later in the afternoon.

2. Athletic Field Lighting

Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Enrique Sanchez made a brief presentation to the board on the topic of athletic field lighting upgrades. Mr. Sanchez mentioned to the board that Mills Pond and Holiday park fixtures are old, and the manufactures are no longer making the parts. Mr. Sanchez informed the board that there are eight parks requesting for field lighting upgrades. Six parks are in critical need for lighting upgrades which are the multipurpose fields at Croissant Park, and Gym, baseball fields at Floranada Park, multipurpose fields and tennis courts at Hardy Park, baseball fields and multipurpose fields at Holiday Park, baseball fields and golf course at Osswald Park, and the multipurpose fields and basketball courts at Sunset Park. Mr. Sanchez stated that the Bayview Park and Mills Pond Park were in phase one project list and the cost for athletic fields were not taken out of the budget which the board has seen those numbers last month.

Mr. Sanchez informed the board that there would be a 40% to 60% reduction in electricity usage and expenses with the new lights and was able to obtain the utility bills for Holiday Park, Hardy Park, and Osswald and it will save approximately 89,000 kilowatts per year, which can provide electricity for 29 homes every year.

Mr. Sanchez stated they will be using technology from a purchasing contract that has

glare control and instant on and off and dimming capabilities. Mr. Sanchez mentioned that there will be 10-year parts and labor warranty.

Mr. Sanchez informed the board members that there is no need to pay consultant fees to have the lighting installed at Bayview Park and Mills Pond Park since the upgrades can be completed with in-house staff.

Mr. Sanchez informed the board members that all expenses must run through the Parks, Recreation, and Beach advisory board and wanted to inform the board on the plan for the lighting upgrades.

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board members that a request is not being made for new funds but rather the presentation is a part of the original list in the parks bond.

Mr. Sanchez informed the board members that there is no other item on the plan at the moment and is only choosing sites where amenities will stay and need to get this complete to keep the current level of service. Mr. Sanchez stated they will be using some of the existing poles; however, some parks such as Hardy Park has wooden poles which will be replaced with concrete. Mr. Sanchez stated they have installed the Moscow lights at the new soccer field at Mills Park and understand the cost.

Mr. Sanchez informed the board members that he was aware of all the lighting concerns and that there will be other parks needing lighting upgrades but would depend mainly on if there are changes to the field. Mr. Sanchez mentioned to the board members that the Mills Pond Park Softball Complex has a major \$3 million dollar renovation and the lighting upgrades might change due to orientation.

Mr. Sanchez informed the board members that the Moscow technology has the best glare control and referenced the board to drive to Powerline Road and go into Wilton Manors then drive to Mills Pond and view the LED lights that were installed at the soccer fields to see the complete difference. Mr. Sanchez stated that if approved it will be presented at a Public hearing tentatively on June 1st at the City Commission meeting and the award will be done at the same time.

Motion was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Deborah Rosenbaum in support of funding the Athletic Field Lighting. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

3. **Board Comments**

Board Chairman Caleb Gunter inquired on the status of the parks board backup files on the City's website. Board liaison Leona Osamor confirmed that the process of the backup files has begun and will be completed shortly.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum inquired on the possibility of having a dog park in the North Beach village on the Barrier Island. Ms. Rosenbaum stated they have a dog park by the loop on the northern section of Birch going north and would like to request the department to consider a dog park in the area. Mr. Carl Williams informed the board that he will pass the information onto the applicable personnel to look into the request.

Board member Tangerean Moore inquired about requesting greenscape at the property on 9th Avenue. Ms. Moore asked if the property is owned by City or County. Mr. Williams stated that the property is public land and the homeowner's association would like to keep it an open green space.

Board member Charlie Leikauf inquired if there are any properties that they are looking into. Mr. Leikauf inquired that if he sees a location that might be good for the community, he would like to submit that request. Mr. Williams confirmed that there were properties that have been looked into for the last six months; however, they do not want to rush but actively discussing with those property owners. Mr. Williams stated to submit the request he will communicate with Stephanie McClary the Liaison of the Parks, Recreation, and Beach Advisory Board.

Board member Brucei Cummings inquired about the land at the river on the north side. Ms. Cummings stated that the land should be bought because the rain tree is not going to live with a building on top of the roots. Mr. Williams stated that next meeting from commission break real estate company should have a couple properties to bring forth.

Board member Greg Martin inquired on the reaction from city council regarding the communications sent to the Commission about the One Stop Shop. Mr. Martin stated that the boards should continue to follow up on the plans for the One Stop Shop. Mr. Williams stated that it was referenced at the last commission meeting; however, there was no action taken. Board member Greg Martin encouraged the board to be creative as they drive all through the area of Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Martin stated that we can find a facility that can be a benefit to the city.

Board member Mary Peloquin stated moving forward if the board can pay attention to the hand raise while doing virtual meetings. Board Chairman agreed and stated he is trying to try to capture the hand raises in orderly time.

Board member Alex Collazo inquired on the joint use parks regarding meetings being individually held for each park. Mr. Collazo stated that in his area there are works being done on Sunrise. Mr. Collazo inquired about Sunrise Middle and whether there are any renovations being done and also inquired if the park is a joint use park and if the park will have security, and if there are security will it be supervised throughout the day or will security only open and close the parks. Mr. Collazo further inquired if the security was going to be solely responsible as a park ranger. Mr. Collazo inquired

if the security will be taken out of the parks budget or the city general funds. Mr. Williams stated they are moving forward with the pickle ball court renovations and adding six new pickleball courts at Sunrise Middle and will start at the end of May or beginning of June and will take about 4 weeks for the project to be complete. Mr. Williams stated there will be additional court on the existing tennis courts. Williams stated that Broward County Public Schools have a reciprocal use agreement and at Sunrise Middle School the park rangers lock and unlock at the schools. Mr. Williams stated that there is no way for the park rangers to close the gates all at once, instead to hire a contractor security company come in to sweep the area and lock the gates. Mr. Williams stated that the security company will be funded from the general funded contract.

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board members that he received an email from a member of Lauderdale manors community regarding Fire station 46 which is owned by the City; however, HOA member in the past wanted to remain a green space only.

Board member Alex Collazo inquired if they could ask the Mayor and Vice mayor to attend the board meetings to discuss concerns to present to the City Commission. Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Gunter, Chairman and Ms. Rosenbaum, Vice Chairman can formally invite the commission to the upcoming meeting to discuss the one stop shop and can make an opportunity for the commissioners to appropriately invite them to discuss the concerns and issues.

Chairman Caleb Gunter inquired the district that the One Stop Shop is located in. Mr. Williams stated that the One stop shop is in Commissioner Glassman's district.

Board member Carey Villeneuve inquired if they could have Ken Kratz make an unsolicited bid for the property to get the One Stop Shop and make a bid of \$100,000 dollar to turn the property into a park and have the Commission consider. Mr. Gunter stated that the suggestion is creative.

4. Communication to the Commission

There were no communications to the Commission.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.